

GENERAL NOTES

Notes on molting time of loons and grebes.—George Miksch Sutton (*Wils. Bull.*, 55, 1943: 145-149) has indicated that Loons probably do not undergo two complete molts per year. The extent of the prenuptial molt especially seems to be uncertain, and the time of the postnuptial molt may vary greatly, some individuals probably not acquiring their winter plumage until they have reached the wintering grounds. The same latitude in time seems to be true of the prenuptial molt.

On April 13, 1940, I observed 15 Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) on Guilford Lake, Columbiana County, Ohio. I was puzzled to see that two of them were still in winter plumage while the others were in breeding plumage. On April 20, 1940, I saw 14 Loons there, two still in winter plumage. On April 27 and 28, 1940, I saw 12; two, probably the same ones observed before, were in winter plumage. On April 11, 1941, I saw six loons at Guilford Lake, one still in winter plumage.

On October 20, 1941, I saw two Holboell's Grebes (*Colymbus griseogen holboelli*) at Jefferson Lake, Jefferson County, Ohio. Both were still in breeding plumage, with the reddish neck plainly visible. It would seem, therefore, that grebes might fall into the same category as loons in regard to variation in time of molting.—FOREST W. BUCHANAN, *Amsterdam, Ohio.*

Cooper's Hawk observed catching a bat.—On the evening of April 26, 1943, I. T. Bode and I sat on the porch of a cabin on Caney Mountain State Game Refuge, Ozark County, Missouri, watching the dusk descend. Two small brown bats (species unknown) were flitting over the creek in front of the cabin, when a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) burst through an opening in the trees and took after one of the bats. A short chase ensued, in which the bat twisted to the right and left with the hawk following every turn. As they passed 50 feet in front of us, the hawk tipped back on its fanned tail, reached an incredible distance forward with both feet, and gracefully picked the bat out of the air. With scarcely a flutter the bird recovered normal flying posture and went out of sight in the timber, carrying the prey. This incident occurred at about 8:00 P.M., E.S.T., by which hour it was becoming quite dark. The bats had been out for at least 30 minutes. We were surprised to see the Cooper's Hawk abroad so late.

Allen ("Bats," 1939: 280-292) summarizes the literature on the known raptorial enemies of bats, most of which are owls and falcons. Stager (*Condor*, 43, 1941: 137-139) reports an instance of several Duck Hawks preying regularly upon Mexican free-tailed bats around a cave in Texas. But I am unable to find any record of accipitrine hawks utilizing such prey.—A. STARKER LEOPOLD, *Missouri Conservation Commission, Jefferson City, Missouri.*

Evidence of polygamy among Marsh Hawks.—Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonius*) are common winter and summer dwellers in the Palouse country of southeastern Washington. As a matter of fact, they are one of the most numerous of the hawks in this region. While studying the nesting habits of the Hungarian Partridge during the spring of 1940, I kept under observation two Marsh Hawk nests in an 80-acre patch of sweet clover and weed stalks, left unplowed from the previous year, which was located approximately two miles northeast of Pullman, Washington (Sec. 33, T. 15 N., R. 45 E.)

The first nest was situated 75 feet from a patch of Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). It contained six eggs on April 18, when it was discovered by a student who was helping me census the area for partridges. The student had almost stepped on the nest before the female flew. Both the male and the female defended the nest very vigorously, uttering excited cries as they dived repeatedly within a few feet of the observers.